

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 9, cancel claim 11, and add new claim 13. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Device to produce ice-cream applied to ice-cream producing machines of a domestic or semi-professional type which cooperates with a refrigeration unit ~~and wherein there is,~~ the device comprising an outer container (11), a cover (26), an inner container (14) including an axial tube (18), a mixing blade (20) including a scraper fin (120), an evaporator coil (21) to remove heat from the inner container (14) and, through this, from the material present therein, the mixing blade (20) being associated at the upper part, in axially removable manner, with a drive shaft (19) driven in rotation by drive means and inserted into said axial tube (18), wherein the evaporator coil (21) is located in cooperation with the bottom (17) of the inner container (14), through at least a contact surface (27), ~~characterized in that~~ at least said scraper fin (120) being made of an elastic material, and said mixing blade (20) being arranged to axially cooperate directly with said cover (26) through a seating (34) in order to be thrust axially by said cover (26) against the bottom (17) of said inner container (14) such that at least said scraper fin (120) is elastically compressed to at least partially conform to the shape of the bottom (17) ~~is subjected to an axial thrust which keeps the scraper fin (120) pressed elastically at least on part of the bottom (17) of the inner container (14).~~

2. (Original) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the mating contact surfaces (27) of the bottom (17) and of the evaporator coil (21) are flat.

3. (Original) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the mating contact surfaces (27) of the bottom (17) and of the evaporator coil (21) have a plurality of rings having a geometric profile (wavy, V-shaped, etc.).

4. (Original) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the mating contact surfaces (27) of the bottom (17) and of the evaporator coil (21) have an arc-type development.

5. (Original) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the mating contact surfaces (27) of the bottom (17) and of the evaporator coil (21) have a V-shaped development (inner or outer).

6. (Previously presented) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the diameter of the bottom (17) is in ratio to the height occupied by the ice-cream in the inner container (14) inside a range which goes from about 0.30 to about 0.50, advantageously from about 0.38 to about 0.42.

7. (Previously presented) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the evaporator coil (21) comprises a coil element (24) incorporated in a material with a high coefficient of heat transmission.

8. (Previously presented) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the mixing blade (20) is conformed so as to thrust upwards the material present in the inner container (14).

9. (Currently amended) ~~Device as in claim 1, characterized in that~~ Device to produce ice-cream applied to ice-cream producing machines of a domestic or semi-professional type which cooperates with a refrigeration unit, the device comprising an outer container (11), a cover (26), an inner container (14) including an axial tube (18), a mixing blade (20) including a scraper fin (120), an evaporator coil (21) to remove heat from the inner container (14) and, through this, from the material present therein, the mixing blade (20) being associated at the upper part, in axially removable manner, with a drive shaft (19) driven in rotation by drive means and inserted into said axial tube (18), wherein the evaporator coil (21) is located in cooperation with the bottom (17) of the inner container (14), through at least a contact surface (27), said mixing blade (20) being subjected to an axial thrust which keeps the scraper fin (120) pressed elastically at least on part of the bottom (17) of the inner container (14), wherein the drive shaft (19) has at its upper part a removable knob (32), cooperating with spring means (33) in order to exert an the axial thrust on the mixing blade (20).

10. (Original) Device as in claim 9, characterized in that the free axial travel of the mixing blade (20) is greater than the length of the circumferential connection segment.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) Device as in claim 1, characterized in that the inner part of the mixing blade (20) includes sealing means (28) cooperating with the axial tube (18).

13. (New) Device as in claim 1, wherein said mixing blade (20) is connected to said drive shaft (19) through key means (30) which cooperate with a seating (31) along a circumferential connection segment (30, 31), said mixing blade (20) sliding axially with respect to said drive shaft (19), the free axial travel of said mixing blade (20) being greater than the length of the circumferential connection segment (30, 31) between the mixing blade (20) and the drive shaft (19), such that, lacking the thrust of said cover (26), said mixing blade (20) slides axially to disengage the key means (30) from the seating (31) to remove said mixing blade (20) from said drive shaft (19) and interrupt transmission of motion from said drive shaft (19) to said mixing blade (20).